



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE



January 22, 2019

Good afternoon.

I hope you had an enjoyable long weekend and were able to take some time to reflect on why we have a national holiday that celebrates the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Now, as much as ever, we can draw inspiration from his words. In a sermon on “Conquering Self-Centeredness” delivered in 1957 at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church in Montgomery, [Dr. King said](#), “An individual has not begun to live until he can rise above the narrow horizons of his particular individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity... Life has its beginning and its maturity comes into being when an individual rises above self to something greater. Few individuals learn this, and so they go through life merely existing and never living.”

In honor of Martin Luther King Jr., and every day, I hope that we at UNM can consider ways to reach our full potential as individuals and as the flagship institution serving the state of New Mexico.

UNM Student Studying at Cambridge as Churchill Scholar

As a higher education institution, we are empowered and encouraged by watching our students grow and thrive and move into the world. Esteban Abeyta, a UNM senior in the biochemistry program, was recently selected to study overseas as a Churchill Scholar. The prestigious [one-year scholarship is highly competitive](#) and Abeyta will join an elite cohort of other students from across the U.S. to pursue his master's degree at Churchill College at the University of Cambridge. His success is the result of hard work, diligence and perseverance, but also should be seen as a reflection of the UNM faculty and staff who have mentored and encouraged him along the way. Congratulations Esteban, you make your Lobo family proud!

Helping UNM Families Impacted by the Government Shutdown

Countless families in New Mexico are being affected by the federal government shutdown, including spouses and partners of UNM employees. I'd like to pass along some resources available to those that are in need. Although the Lobo Food Pantry is commonly advertised as a resource for students, it is also open to the UNM Community. The next two will occur on Jan. 25 and Feb. 15, from 10 a.m. to noon. All [Lobo Food Pantry](#) distribution events will take place at the UNM South Parking Lot. If you are looking to help families impacted by the shutdown, please consider donating to the Lobo Food Pantry or other local food pantries. Student enrollment is not canceled due to current semester charges and payment plans are available. Impacted students can contact the Bursar for additional information.

Lobos Make UNMGives Campaign a Success

Your generous contributions are all tallied, and I'm pleased to announce the UNMGives Campaign raised more than \$950,000 this year – a \$200,000 increase over last year's campaign! I joined Chancellor Roth last week in [delivering Saggio's pizza to the departments](#) with the most noticeable level of giving (one at main and one at HSC) with high participation - the College of Arts & Sciences Administrative Support group and the Department of Pediatrics. I would like to extend my personal thanks to the giving Lobos in all of our departments who make this campaign a success year after year, creating lasting influence on our community.

Higher Learning Commission Survey

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC), the regional accrediting body that evaluates our university, has created [multiple pathways for the UNM community to contribute to their evaluation](#). Students were sent a direct email encouraging them to take part in a survey about their experiences at UNM, which will be available until Jan. 30. The HLC is also seeking [broader public comment](#), which is open to anyone who would like to participate through Feb. 4. Please consider sharing your perspectives. Additionally, open forums will be held with the team from the HLC when they visit main campus on March 4-5, after visiting UNM-Gallup and UNM-Taos on March 1, 2019. The Provost and I will continue to provide updates as we move through this very important process.

Have a great week, and let's go Lobos!

Garnett S. Stokes
President